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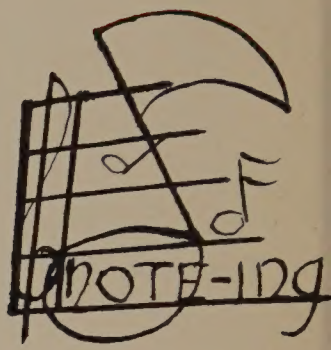
familiar tune

with . . .

...the BEAT of the CHRIST-LIFE



Juanita

JUANITA and ALICE belong to the Castle family and help to harmonize the tune of Christ-living in their boarding school home. They are two of 135 girls who have come this year to Rock Castle from many states all over the country. From crowded New York, Chicago and Washington they have come. From Southern towns and the Western coast the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament have welcomed them to the Castle home.

JUANITA MELENDEZ lives in Savannah, Georgia. She is a sophomore and began to live the **Christ-tune** as a Catholic before she came to the Castle. This is not the case with many of the girls who are non-Catholics. **JUANITA appreciates most of all the opportunity of daily Mass.** "I know," she says with all the maturity of her fifteen years, "that when I leave Saint Francis I will be able to **face the world with a greater outlook on life.**"

Audrey Gee, Juanita Melendez and LeNora Henderson

is HARMONIZED within the

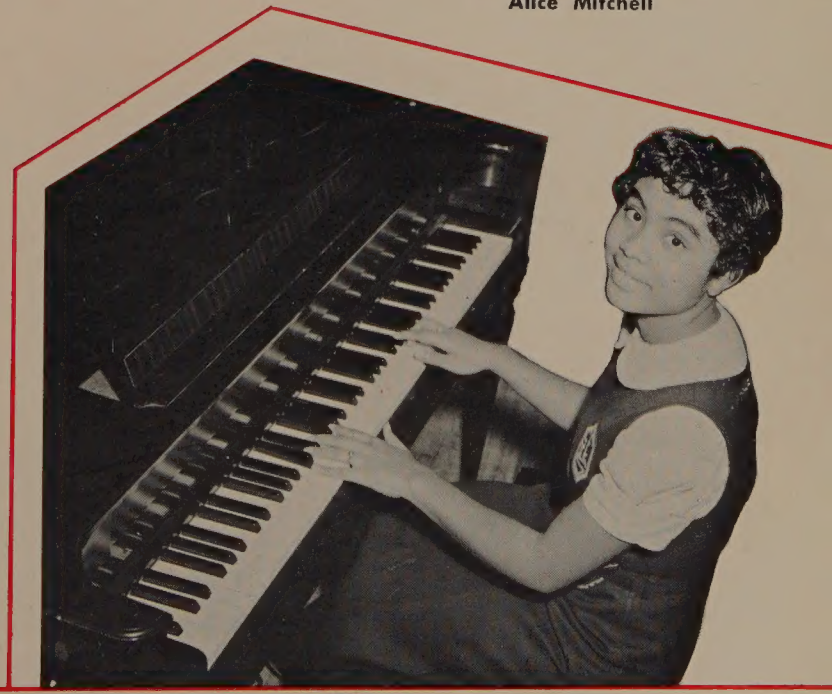
CASTLE FAMILY

St. Francis de Sales High School, Rock Castle, Virginia, conducted by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament is affectionately referred to as the "Castle" by the Sister missioners, the students and its Alumnae.

and Alice

ALICE MITCHELL'S home is in Birmingham, Alabama. "I came to the Castle in my Sophomore year," she tells us, "and I realize the many things I was lacking before are mine now." **ALICE** is not a Catholic but the **Christ-melody will be in her heart very soon.** She is nearing the completion of instructions and **eagerly awaits the arrival of her Baptismal day** at the close of this, her Junior Year.

Alice Mitchell



MISSION FIELDS AT HOME is published bi-monthly by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Cornwells Heights, Pa. Entered as Second class matter Sept. 28, 1928 at the Post Office, Cornwells Heights, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Vol. XXV, No. 2. Subscription $1.00 per year, $25.00 for life.
Sullivan Brothers, Printers — Lowell, Mass.

BY BAPTISM we are inserted into the royal family of the Trinity. Castle girls are made aware of this and aim to be loyal to the royal in them. Life in Christ at the Castle has a record of almost 60 years — a long playing record, indeed. ALICE and JUANITA and all 1958 Castleites are continuing that record now.

A few years before 1899, the formal opening of St. Francis de Sales, its foundress, Reverend Mother M. Katharine Drexel, commenced negotiations for the purchase of "Mount Pleasant," a portion of the estate of General Philip St. George Cocke, said to be the wealthiest planter in the South in his day. Six hundred

long playing record

acres of wooded grounds sixty miles from Richmond on the James River were purchased. Here was to begin the foundation and building of a boarding school for girls of high school age where young women would receive not only academic training, but education in household arts and domestic science courses that would fit them to carve places of respectability and efficiency in their future lives.

In 1908-09 the privilege of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was granted the community on special days each month and students shared in this spiritual opportunity. This is always deemed a vital part of the dedicated apostolate of SBS missioners whose Eucharistic vocation is centered in daily Mass, nourished by daily Communion and deepened by daily Adoration so that all may be one with them in Christ.

God's grace has been working in the hearts of many Castleites and this mission has been fruitful in many vocations to the religious life. More than 100 former students have become Oblate Sisters of Providence at Baltimore. Among these was the former Superior General of that community, Mother Consuela, now deceased, and Mother M. Teresa, who succeeded Mother Consuela in office and is at present the Vicar-General. Others, too, have entered the Holy Family Sisters in New Orleans, the Handmaids of Mary in New York and other religious communities.

During the year 1925 a scholastic step forward was made when St. Francis de Sales' High School was accredited by the State

Long playing record (cont'd)

Board of Education of Virginia. In 1940 the school measured its qualifications as an institute of higher education against the requirements of the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. This scholastic rating was an achievement facilitating the greater mission endeavor of the Sisters. New hopes, new opportunities opened out for their young students who would be Christ-bearers in this 20th century society.

In addition to the development of the school curriculum the Sisters have made visits to the sick and needy in the surrounding countryside. In the very first month of their arrival in 1899 the Sisters had found a very sick girl who wanted instructions. Some months after they were present at her Baptism, their first in the state of Virginia, and the beginning of a long flow of the waters of Baptism over the souls of hundreds of girls who in the years to come would receive the gift of Faith at St. Francis de Sales. The State Prison was also visited, the Sisters bringing spiritual and material help to the inmates there.

The school roster now numbers the names of almost 3,000 girls who have come to the Castle during the

TOP: Miss B. Charbonnet, Home Economics teacher at the Castle, is a graduate of Xavier University, New Orleans, also conducted and maintained by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Here she instructs Margaret Burks and Ella Warren in the intricacies of home making.

Sister Rene, SBS, principal at the Castle, confers with senior Gertrude Jones about future college plans.

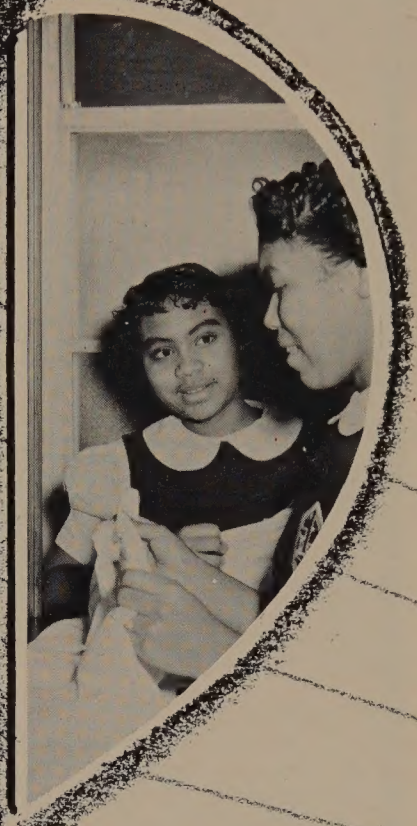
BOTTOM: Miss F. Kelleher, a graduate of Regis College, Weston, Mass. is a lay apostle who has volunteered a year's service at the Castle. Business education classes occupy only part of her day while visitations, hikes with the girls and consultations make her a busy missionary in her own way. Pictured, left to right, at the meadow fence are: Cora Handy, Miss Kelleher, Norma Jean Chachere, Margaret Burks, Gloria Blair, Brenda Boudreaux.

past 60 years. In 1947 a new music building was erected to add to the already existing large building which was home and school for the Sisters and girls. In 1952 the Castle was completely renovated and modernized to meet the needs and demands of an ever-growing enrollment.

The history of the Castle has been closely allied with St. Emma Military Academy, founded by Mrs. Edward Morrell, sister of Rev. Mother Katharine. St. Emma, staffed by the Holy Ghost Fathers, adjoins the property of St. Francis de Sales. Together students from both schools have shared the highlights of school life. Plays, musicales, oratorical contests, radio broadcasts, field day and other athletic events testify to the dramatic, musical and athletic ability as well as scholarship of the students of both schools. **These students then, taking their place in adult life, have been a means of bringing parents, relatives, friends into the church. Others, mothers of families now, are sending their daughters to their Alma Mater, Others too, have found their way into every profession and occupation. There is scarely a large city in America today where you will not find some Castle graduate.**

THE ROCK CASTLE MISSION IS BUT ONE OF MANY CONDUCTED BY THE SISTERS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, an American community dedicated to serving Christ in the Indians and Colored People. (In the U.S. there are 16 million Negroes and only half million are Catholic; there are 450,000 Indians and 200,000 are still pagan.) Founded in 1891 by Reverend Mother Katharine Drexel, THEY STRIVE THROUGH THEIR EUCHARISTIC VOCATION TO MAKE THESE MANY ONE WITH THEM IN CHRIST. In twenty-one states from New York to California over 500 S.B.S. missioners carry on an apostolate which includes education, home visitation, catechetical instruction and social service work. It reaches into large cities in the North, South and mid-West, into rural areas of the deep South and into the Indian reservations of New Mexico, Arizona and South Dakota. THE AUXILIARIES, SUBSCRIBERS AND FRIENDS WHO AID THE SISTERS ARE THE "MISSIONARIES BEHIND THE SCENES" WHO MAKE POSSIBLE THIS SERVICE IN THE VAST AREA OF THE HOME MISSIONS.

Castleites below represent an interesting variety of SBS mission sites in Georgia, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and Louisiana. Among those pictured are the following who are fruits of uninterrupted SBS training since the first grade: Alice Parham, Marie Sheehy, Brenda Hughes, LeNora Henderson, Annease Chaney, Patricia King, Trinia Butler, Sandra Butler, Shirley Brandon, Ada Payne, Myra Starr, Priscilla James, Theresa White, Marcelle Techney, Brenda Boudreaux, Norma Jean Chachere.



Patricia Forney shows ALICE how to lay vestments for Mass.

To live WHOLLY isolation but in ality) **is the en JUANITA and A** asked what the sophomore from is like a second I have a much l **I felt the warm Castle,"** confides Island. Homesick ies suffer during Castle to becom grated program ricular activities Military Academ Now senior Au feels the sympto months before sickness for the What is the reas "homeiness" tha this way:

From the altar at the Castle and the altar in their own parish these Castleites bring Christ to others in Catholic Action. Left to right: Henrietta Spears, Gertrude Jones, Kathryn Bolden, Maxine Hughes, Antoinette Davis, Barbara Yourse, Carolyn Brown, Mary Devine, Beverley Harris, Evelyn McCullough.

JUANITA — a formal tonight.

CHRIST *the* domi

with the body, mind and will not in
nity of a CHRIST-integrated person-
**sis which gears the daily life of
and all the 135 Castleites.** When
tle means to her, Jackie Robinson,
Bronx says, "First of all the Castle
e to me. The only difference is that
family here." **"In a matter of days
and unity which dwells with the**
omore, Patricia Thornton from Long
is one ailment that only the Fresh-
first days when they come to the
part of the family there. An inte-
lasses, co-curricular and extra-cur-
ne Castle and at nearby St. Emma
boys, keep Castleites on the move.
Gee of San Francisco, California,
f homesickness again these last few
uation as she admits, "My home-
e has begun already."
r this "warmness" and "unity" and
tleites experience? Castleites put it

MAIL TIME — Left to right: Audrey Gunn, Mother M. Gervase, SBS, Superior of Rock Castle mission, Cleo Brown, Maxine Wong, Judith Williams, Sheila Campbell.

"The Castle is like a home and the Sisters are like Mothers, but most of all, CHRIST is the head and the light." (Gwendolyn Bowe, Norfolk, Va.)
"The Castle to me is just like a real castle with a king and his subjects. Christ is our King, and we are His subjects." (Dolores Peters, Washington, D.C.)
"The Castle teaches me to love Christ in my neighbor and how to be a Christ-bearer. If it had not been for Reverend Mother Katharine and the Sisters many of the Negro and Indian people would never have had the chance of knowing Christ." (Diane Palm, Chester, Pa.)
"In a way we are all one, Judy, Betty Jo, Sally and I all help to make up the Mystical Body. We're all sisters in Christ. Everyone is." (Sandra Brent, Chicago).
"When at the Castle I first heard the statement, 'Christ in me loves Christ in you', I thought about becoming a Catholic." (Shirley Rawlins, Farmville, Va.)
Yes, CHRIST IS the DOMINANT NOTE of Castle family life.

ant note

in JUANITA'S and ALICE'S family life at the Castle

Recording

the CHRIST-tempo of JUANITA'S and ALICE'S

School is serious business to JUANITA and ALICE as it is to their Castle friends and classmates. Learning with others is a stimulating experience when those others come from so many far-away places. Freshman, Bernice Smith from Philadelphia, says "to get to meet girls from other parts of the United States, from Cuba and the Virgin Islands" means so much. **It is with a certain Christian maturity that these high school students view the training they are receiving at the Castle.** Patricia Forney, a senior from Fayetteville, North Carolina, echoes the sentiments of

Study time for ALICE and some of the seniors with Sr. Madeleine Sophie, SBS.

JUANITA—just thinking!

School Life

many when she lauds the Castle where "I have been more fully equipped spiritually, mentally, physically and morally to face life." **The school motto "Goodness, Knowledge, Discipline, teach me, O Lord" means much to the girls whose striving for depth of knowledge has a Christian design.** Certainly an education has been most fruitful which can lead Patricia King, a junior from Manhattan to say, "I have learned to be sympathetic with other girls in their times of sorrow." **The idealism of Christian youth which would prompt freshman Shelia Campbell from New York City to "share not only every day things but myself" makes S.B.S. missioners thrill with hope for tomorrow.**

Getting supplies for scientific experiments: Sr. M. Euphrasia, SBS, Alice Parham, ALICE and Hazel Paige.

Lingering VIRGINIA melody

ALICE and JUANITA say that they will always remember the visitations they have made with some of the Sisters, teachers and students in the surrounding rural area where they shared the joy of the Christ-melody of love and unselfishness with Virginia's poor. Sr. Madeleine Marie, faculty member at St. Francis de Sales, here writes the score of this Virginia melody.

Neil (now gone to God).

"Be it ever so humble . . ." One associates Virginia with impressive ancestral homes whose great white columns rise proudly from broad verandas where genteel men and women sit leisurely admiring the flowering magnolia trees. I have seen such Virginia scenes but they are not common in our area. The scenic memory of Virginia which I shall cherish is the red brick Castle tower extending prayerfully into the clouded blue sky from which goes forth a benediction upon the square, dull wooden frame houses and the tumbled-down shacks which spot the green fields, the wooden paths and the red mud soil of our neighborhood. These are home to our people.

Look at Neil's house. It's borrowed and not very snug on a rainy night, despite a generous donor's attempt. "Just bring me some newspaper and I'll lay it up there between the cracks. It doesn't rain much, just enough to annoy you." We have always had outdoor visits at Neil's. There just isn't room inside and besides there are no steps and the warped board which leads to the door is a bit precarious. Neil has exchanged this dwelling for a better one, a heavenly abode, since we began this article. I'm sure Our Lady has taken over and provided him with a soft mattress, a whole blanket, a pair of shoes with one for each foot, and a roof that doesn't leak on a rainy night. I shall never pass his old home without hearing his cheery greeting, "Jesus sent you, I was just telling the Lord about all you Sisters and Jesus sent you."

Then there are Luther and Miss Annie. Luther is a ward of the State and Miss Annie is sharing her home with him. Miss Annie hasn't much but she has more than Luther who doesn't even have his legs. How we pray that they will one day receive the greatest possession—Faith. Luther is not much for praying but Sister tried to teach him an Act of perfect love and contrition. I had sometimes wondered if he thought of God at all until the day I took this picture which made him so happy he sang "Going to Jerusalem with John." I'm sure God understands.

This is my Virginia, with its Neil and Luther, and Miss Annie and the many others we visit with the hope that someday they may be one. Their homes are like them — poor but protecting, guileless but good, asking nothing and giving much.

Dear God, may these little ones, Thy children, become living dwellings of Thy Most Holy Trinity and in Your love, bless these houses.

—Sr. Madeleine Marie, SBS
(Philadelphia, Pa.)

Sr. James Mary, Sr. M. Alicia, Sr. Angela Marie with Luther and Miss Annie.

ELLEN TARRY, a graduate of St. Francis de Sales High School, Rock Castle, Virginia is scaling the heights of a journalistic career and today ranks among the notable American authors. It was at the Castle that this contemporary Christian writer first received the gift of Faith.

Her latest book, entitled KATHARINE DREXEL, FRIEND OF THE NEGLECTED, makes the foundress of the many missions of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and of the Rock Castle mission live again. In the living expression of her conversational style, Ellen Tarry has created what promises to be a best seller. Readers, old and young, should enjoy this story of a self-less woman who, for the love of the Whole Christ, dedicated her material wealth and her own life to the service of Christ in the Indians and Colored People of our land.

In the preface of her book Ellen writes:

> **Few authors have been privileged to write a book about the person who has, in the spiritual sense, been the source of their greatest gift—the gift of Faith. In writing about Reverend Mother M. Katharine Drexel, this has been my privilege.**
>
> **It was many years ago, when June was in the meadows and the sun shone bright in the recreation hall at St. Francis de Sales in Rock Castle, Virginia—just as bright as the July sun is shining on my desk while I write—that Mother Katharine handed me a diploma. Just as that same sun shines today, the same helpful love with which Reverend Mother Anselm and Sr. Mary Timothy prepared me for that graduation has flown along the course of years to make this book possible. It is therefore a gesture of appreciation to all of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament from one of their own children.**

KATHARINE DREXEL,
FRIEND OF THE NEGLECTED
By Ellen Tarry

(A Vision Book, published by Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, N.Y. $1.95)

Other books by Ellen Tarry include: JANIE BELLE, RUNAWAY ELEPHANT, MY DOG RINTY, HEZEKIAH HORTON, THE THIRD DOOR.

The Christ-vision, living Faith and professional ability of this Rock Castle graduate gladden the hearts of all S.B.S. missioners. In her life she continues to sing the Christ-melody she first learned at the Castle. Joining her in this song of Christ-living are almost three thousand others who have been taught by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at the Castle. The Sisters are proud of them and thank God that He has imaged His Son so vividly in them.

Mrs. Julia Foster, the president of the SBS National Alumni is another Castle graduate. In her Christ-principled enthusiasm, energetic zeal and

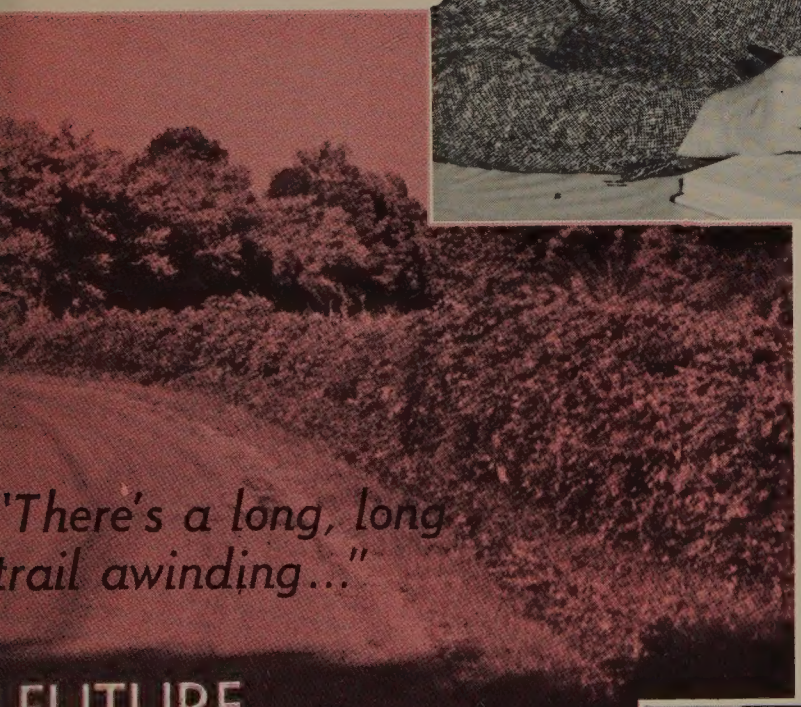
into the

CHRIST-bearing

wholesome joy she is typical of so many S.B.S. graduates. Because of her so many like her who have walked down the Castle lane into life singing the Christ-melody, we Sister missioners lift up our voices, too, in a song of praise and thanksgiving.

Right—Ellen Tarry autographs her book on the life of Reverend Mother Katharine for Mother M. Pius, S.B.S., principal of St. Mark's School, N. Y., who first suggested the writing of the book.

Below—Sr. M. Helène, S.B.S., moderator of the Washington Alumni Chapter, confers with Mrs. Julia Foster, President of the SBS National Alumni.



'There's a long, long trail awinding..."

FUTURE for CASTLEITES

JUANITA and ALICE have the fullness of their Christ-life still ahead of them. But they leave the Castle and the Sisters to become future Ellens and future Julias, to bear the Christ-song into the world as CHRISTIAN LEADERS, RELIGIOUS, WIVES, MOTHERS, TEACHERS, AUTHORS, STENOGRAPHERS, NURSES, SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS, HOME MAKERS—CHRIST-BEARERS ALL!

mission fields at home

Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
1663 Bristol Pike
Cornwells Heights, Pa.
April, 1958

Sr. Madeleine Marie, S.B.S. with Castle students, Gertrude Jones, Juanita Melendez, Alice Mitchell

In this issue of **MISSION FIELDS AT HOME**
is featured **St. Francis de Sales High School**
in Rock Castle, Virginia
(40 miles west of Richmond, Va.)
At this boarding school, conducted by the
Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament,
young girls from all over the country
are educationally, culturally and socially trained
to grow up in Christ that they may
go forth as a **Christ-leaven to society.**
The Castle is a mission indeed to the
Sister-missioners who are sent to give
loving service to Christ in the students there
and to the students who are sent forth from there
to live Christ everywhere.